Outline of the Proposal for Ph. D. Degree to be Submitted to the

Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

Nineteenth Century Feminist Prose Writers in England and India: A Comparative Study

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August, 2017.

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Introduction:

In the present thesis, the researcher tries to focus on various perspectives in relation to the notion of patriarchy and social structure. Scope of the present study is limited to the study of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1772) by Mary Wollstonecraft, *The Subjection of Women* (1869) by John Stuart Mill, *A Comparison between Women and Men* (1882) by Tarabai Shinde and *The High-Caste Hindu Women* (1887) by Pandita Ramabai. The present study is an attempt to analyse the existence of women in a society which is characterised by various factors, such as differentiation based on class and gender differentiation, and in India caste system.Consequently, the subjugated section of the existing social order has been exploited, i.e. lower caste-class sections and women; the very scenario of the late eighteenth and nineteenth century European and Indian societies is emphasised in the present research. Irrespective of her caste and class, the position of woman is considered inferior to the male counterpart. Locating the condition of woman, bound by class-caste-based disorder and patriarchy, the selected works stress the importance of liberation of women in the world.

It is widely argued and accepted that the forces related to all walks of life have been anti-woman and pro-man. Leaving no scope to breathe normally, this social temper repressed woman. Liberation of woman from the masculine confinement in a society is the cherished dream of the aforementioned authors. The essence and relevance of the concerned works have been underlined by the liberation. The approach and perspective of Tarabai Shinde, John Stuart Mill, Mary Wollstonecraft, and Pandita Ramabai are to be analysed through the comparative study.

Tarabai, Mary, Mill and Ramabai are not only directing towards abject poverty but also articulating the patriarchal subordination, relationship between women and men, issues of sexuality, etc. These can be significant constituents that have been prevailing Brahminical and/or elitist view of knowledge throughout the ages. In the present work, the researcher tries to concentrate on the awareness of existence of the Indian woman; on the other hand, the researcher also is to focus on the fact that Mary and Mill reinforces articulation of the issues which are related to women, such as education,occupation, etc. All of the aforementioned thinker-cum-activists focus on the social and religious identities in the British and Indian society.

Importance of the Study:

In the present study, the researcher tries to focus on the relationship between Indian patriarchy and social structure as well as the European class differentiation and patriarchal disorder. Another important concern of the work is: how the time, place and temper of the place affect the lives of woman?At the same time, the present study has a close relationship with the contemporary social scenario. It seems that still in the twenty first century the European and Indian societies are being controlled by the discriminative ideologies spearheaded by race, religion, caste, class and gender.

The Objectives of the Study:

The major objectives of the present study are as follows:

- To analyse the issues of women through comparative study of the late eighteenth and nineteenth century British and Indian social orders.
- To study the relationship between women and men in England and India.
- To study the role of woman in the disordered social orders based on the caste-class-gender discrimination.
- To study the position of woman in England and India that has been dominated through the patriarchal system.

Research Methodology:

The research methodology assumed for exploration in the present research is comparative in nature. The primary and secondary sources will be comparatively studies, analysed and interpreted to meet the hypotheses.

Research Hypotheses:

- John Stuart Mill, Mary Wollstonecraft, Pandita Ramabai, and Tarabai Shindecontributed for the foundation of feminist theory in England and India.
- Theorising gender stands for equality between women and men.
- The late eighteenth and nineteenth century thinker-cum-activists in England and India contributed to the establishment of gender theory.
- Selected prose writings by the prominent authors established the theory of emancipation of women from the generational ordeals.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

Chapter One: Introduction

Chapter Two: Emergence of the Feminist Thought in Literature Produced by the Indian Authors

Chapter Three: Emergence of the Feminist Thought in Literature Produced by the British Authors

Chapter Four: Theorising Gender throughthe British context

Chapter Five: Theorising Gender throughthe Indian context

Chapter Six: Comparative Study of Selected Feminist Prose in the Late Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century England and India

Chapter Seven: Conclusion

The chapterscan briefly be analysedas follows:

Chapter One

Introduction

The first chapter of the present research focuses on the concept, emergence, and development of feminism. On the other hand, this chapter is to focus on the historical background of feminism in the Indian as well British context. The development of feminism is discussed through the three waves. This chapter also analyses different meanings of the feminist writings, such as in England and Indian some writers have used this term to refer asthe historically specific political movement; and on the other hand, the other writers use to believe that there is injustice against women and this movement is for the escape of women from the ordeal. This chapter also emphasises the conceptualisation and use of comparative research in literature.

Chapter Two

Emergence of the Feminist Thought in Literature Produced by the Indian Authors

The second chapter discusses the emergence of feminist thought incorporated in literature produced by the Indian women writers. Emergence of feminist thought can be traced out right from the ancient period, i.e. from the Buddhist period. This chapter also discusses that the thinkers were succeeded directly or indirectly to spread the doctrine derived from the Buddhist tradition, such as Jotirao Phule, Tarabai Shinde, Pandita Ramabai, Anandibai Joshi, Ramabai Ranade, Babasaheb Ambedkar, and many of their contemporaries.

Chapter Three

Emergence of the Feminist Thought in Literature Produced by the British Authors

The third chapter throws light on the emergence of feminist thought derived from the literature produced by theBritish authors. It also focuses on the status of women in the British literature in the early sixteenth century. With enforcement of the middle class women, beginning of the British Cultural Revolution also is analysed in this chapter. This occurrence becomes very helpful for the journals that facilitate a space for women to reveal their inner self. Mary Astell, John Stuart Mill and Mary Wollstonecraft explored openly the issues of women, such as imprisonment if the woman in her own house, constrain on her education, etc.

Chapter Four

Theorising Gender through the British context

The fourth chapter throws light on the concept and representation of gender through the analysis of *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* and *The Subjection Women*. With the help of literary works written by the prominent authors, this chapter analyses feminism in the field of sociological studies. At the same time, this chapter also discusses the development of the gender studies. It also focuses on the views of John Stuart Mill and Mary Wollstonecraft on the concept of gender. Conclusively, this chapter analyses the texts:*The Subjection of Women* and *A Vindication of the Rights of Women* focusing the crucial issues of women, such as marriage, relationship between women and men and the status of women in family as well as society.

Chapter Five

Theorising Gender through the Indian Context

The fifth chapter theorises the concept and representation of the gender studies through *A Comparison between Women and Men* and *The High-Caste Hindu Women*. This chapter analyses the basic category of human beings and focuses on the relationship of women and men, i.e. how s/he develops her or his identity. This chapter also focuses on the Indian customs and traditions, like *sati*, widowhood, and child-marriage. At the same time, it also tries to analyse the views of Tarabai Shindeon the Indian customs, religion, concept of *stridharm*, etc.

Chapter Six

Comparative Study of Feminist Prose in the Late Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century England and India

The sixth chapter focuses on the comparative study of *A Vindication of the Rights of Women*, *The Subjection of Women*, *A Comparison between Women and Men*, and *The High-Caste Hindu Women*. This chapter also focuses on the relationship between women and men, discriminative customs and traditions, awful impacts of marriage on women, etc. This chapter is a comparative study of the British and Indian social order.

Chapter Seven

Conclusion

The seventh chapter concludes this thesis and throws light on the equal position of the British and Indian women. Both of the social orders have been dominated through the process of patriarchy. This chapter also tries to present

similarity between works of Mary Wollstonecraft, John Stuart Mill and Tarabai Shinde, Pandita Ramabai. Eventually, this chapter discusses the issues of women incorporated in the aforementioned works.

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Place: Nanded

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